

The Baltimore County Commission on Disabilities
Monthly Meeting
September 19, 2018

Welcome and Introductions: Terri Seitz-Parrish, Chair; Romelle Goodman, Commissioner; Angela Manning, Commissioner; Julie Gaynor, Proxy for Councilwoman Cathy Bevens; Judy Volkman, Commissioner; Deborah Weems, Commissioner; Santa Wallace, Commissioner; Larry Hughes, Commissioner; Carolyn Johnson, Commissioner; Paulette Smoot, Commissioner; Mary Scott, Commissioner; Mary Manzoni, Commissioner; Brad Creswell, Commissioner; Michael Tan, Commissioner; Ellen Flatt, Commissioner; Douglas Smith, Commissioner; Hal Franklin, former County staff; Dave Greenberg, Commissioner; Kathleen Zirkin, Commissioner; Ben Dubin, Vice-Chair; Mike Bullis, Commissioner

Staff: David Skinner

Start: 11:00 a.m.

Speaker: Mike Bullis, Executive Director, IMAGE Center

- Veterans Self Directed Care: Would like to see non-profits get the word out better about disability resources to reintegrate disabled residents back into the community but within the constraints of funding capacity to avoid overload of the system.
- 3/10 of a percent of people every year get off of social security disability benefits because they fear losing their benefits if they return to work.
- The Able Program allows residents with significant disability to put up to \$20k yearly of non-taxable income aside for expenses related to disability.

Report of the Executive Committee

- New 2018 Community Resource Guide is published and available for distribution

Report of the Full Body

- **General Discussion:**
 - Terri Seitz-Parrish announces tentative plans: Jan. 2019 Legislative Event; beginning Feb - May 2019 speakers invited will be the pending new County Executive, Rebecca Rider, BCPS; Leon Patterson, ADA Coordinator at BWI Intl Airport; Jay Ringold, BCFD for an Emergency Management topic. Terri opens the floor to suggestions for different speakers. A member suggests BCPS Board of Education members.
 - Terri asks that the Legislative task force informs the CoD on legislative issues affecting the disability community.
 - The CoD has been able to contract the services of an event planner for this year's 2018 Awards Luncheon. Discussion of some of the nuances that must be conveyed to the event planner for a successful event.
 - Suggestion of additional task forces [workgroups]. One with the goal to recruit younger members from college campuses. Another for 1st responder disability awareness.
 - Possible with pending election that a new CoD Chair and Vice-Chair could be appointed by the incoming County Executive
 - 6 current Commissioners who 3 year term has expired
 - David Skinner gives status update of 2018 Awards Ceremony and Luncheon planning. Advises of the online registration www.baltimorecodawards.ticketleap.com with 17 people registered so far. Hard copy invitation suites printed and mailed PO Box established for hard copy RSVPs.

Work Group Reports:

- **Education:**

- Still looking at family life issues after having discovered a few years ago that BCPS middle school children with IEPs were not receiving formal class instruction in Family Consumer Science.
- Terri suggest that the work group also start looking at Coding as an issue.
- **Housing:**
 - Working to review and revise the “Welcoming Residents with Disabilities Handbook”.
- **Universal Access:**
 - Goal remains to ensure ADA compliance in public buildings, parking lots and polling places.

Announcements:

- 10/17/18 CoD Awards Ceremony & Luncheon, Martin’s Valley Mansion
- 11/21/18 Veteran Self Directed Services Speaker
- 12/7/18 New Member Orientation at the League
- 10/2/18 @ Sheraton Hotel in Towson, Joint Chamber event as a forum for County Executive candidates, 8am to 9:30 am www.chesapeakechamber.org
- 10/5/18 MD Disability Gubernatorial Candidates Forum, Hyatt Regency Downtown
- Nationwide recruitment initiative for teachers in the field Vision easily sourced online

Adjournment: 2:00 pm